

DECISION RECORD AND  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
FOR  
RECREATIONAL USE OF THE IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

AK-040-02-EA-004

I. Decision:

It is my decision that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) adopt the Proposed Action to permit commercial, competitive, and special recreational uses of the Iditarod National Historic Trail. The Proposed Action will allow use at the levels described below.

1. Competitive events including sled dog racing, snowmobile racing, and human endurance competition may be authorized for up to 90 sled dog teams, 100 snowmobile racers, and 100 human endurance athletes. Total support personnel and participants may not exceed 2,500 user days each year.
2. Commercial activities, including big game guiding and outfitting, adventure travel and commercial filming/photography may be authorized up to the following use levels. Total use by guides, clients, and support personnel may not exceed 1,100 user days per year for guiding and adventure travel and 250 user days per year for commercial filming/photography.
3. Recreation activities for which a special recreation permit is not required, including military training exercises, organized non-profit events and promotional activities may not exceed 250 user days each year. Use may include snowmobiles, sled dog teams, all terrain vehicles, helicopters, and fixed wing aircraft.

Total user days for all activities under the Proposed Action may not exceed 4,100 per year. All use will be subject to the attached stipulations and any program specific requirements.

II. Rationale for the Decision:

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Southcentral Alaska Management Framework Plan (March 1980), the Northwest Management Framework Plan (June 1982), and the Iditarod National Historic Trail Comprehensive Management Plan (March 1986).

The activities addressed in the Environmental Assessment have taken place for many years. The amount of use on the trail has grown as events have become more popular and snow machines more dependable. The current demand of 4100 user days can be met without increasing impacts to natural resources. Conflicts between users will increase at this level. These conflicts are manageable with coordination between groups and scheduling. If demand increases for specific periods of use, limiting the number of users may become necessary.

III. Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI):

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, I have determined that the impacts associated with the Proposed Action are not expected to be significant and an environmental impact statement is not required.

IV. ANILCA Section 810 Compliance:

No significant restrictions of subsistence uses under Section 810 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act have been found.

/s/ Peter J. Ditton, Acting  
Anchorage Field Manager

02-15-02  
Date

### STIPULATIONS

1. Fuel flown in for events must be placed in fuel containment dikes and absorbent pads must be available on site. Fuel stored on site must be a minimum of 100 feet from cabins and water supplies.
2. For all new events, require adequate snow depth on the trail to accommodate the event and casual traffic. A minimum of one foot of snow and frost depth of one foot is adequate for the weight and number of vehicles to be permitted.
3. Establish a gross vehicle weight of 1000 pounds and maximum width of 60 inches for event and support vehicles.
4. Require all events and permitted users to mark fuel and food containers with an event identifier tag to insure all materials are removed after the event.
5. Require either Alaska grown straw or (if imported) certified weed free straw to prevent the possibility of undesirable weeds being introduced.
6. Prohibit trash burning within 100 feet of any cabin or historic structure.
7. Initiate a signing program that indicates expectations for users at cabin sites to prevent vandalism and damage.